GCE Music Technology 2017:
Scheme of Work – Component 4 – 2-year course

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Year One

Weeks 1–2	**Introduction to Component 4** ***Understanding how to display and interpret information graphically and technical numeracy should be embedded throughout the course.*** ***Some content for this component may be covered in other areas of the course.*** • As part of the introduction to Component 4, students will be provided with an overview of the component • Students are made aware of the requirements to fulfil the specification: o This paper comprises two sections: A and B; all questions are compulsory o Each student will be provided with a set of audio/MIDI materials for the practical element of the examination, to include: audio files relating to three instrumental/vocal parts; a single MIDI file from which a fourth instrumental part will be created or synthesised o Students will correct and then combine the audio and MIDI materials to form a completed mix, which may include creating new tracks or parts from the materials provided o Section A: Producing and analysing (85 marks) – five questions related to the audio and MIDI materials provided that include both written responses and practical tasks o Section B: Extended written response (20 marks) – one essay focusing on a specific mixing scenario, signal path, effect or music technology hardware unit
Weeks 3–7	**Handling and mixing audio** • Importing files and exporting / bouncing with correct start and end gaps for the final bounce • Trimming, placing and looping audio files to make a continuous instrumental line • Workshops and specimen questions to develop editing and mixing skills, to include: o Controlling level and EQ o Using pan automation
Weeks	**Theoretical and practical tasks focusing on MIDI, dynamics and distortion** • Basic sequencing and MIDI theory

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8–14	• Importing MIDI tracks; checking pitch/synchronisation and selecting a suitable timbre using a preset • Gating • Distortion • Workshops and specimen questions to develop editing and mixing skills
Weeks 15–20	**Detailed exploration of the question paper and specimen long-response questions** • Overview of the question paper – question types and command words used in all questions • Specimen questions to cover all editing/mixing processes to date with the addition of manual and automatic pitch/rhythm correction and non-automated filtering • Essay question focus – approaches to answers; focus on mark scheme; evaluating the use of music technology
Weeks 21–26	**Essay writing skills and specimen questions** • Developing evaluation/essay-writing skills; focusing on specific mixing scenarios • Specimen questions covering all content covered to date, plus any not yet studied, e.g. modulated delay and wah-wah effects
Weeks 27–33	**Revision and specimen questions** • Revision of all content covered • Specimen questions
Weeks 34–39	**Mock exams, feedback and investigating the A level paper** • Students sit mock exam using AS sample assessment materials • Feedback on the mock exam from teacher • Exploring the differences between the AS and A level papers

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Year Two

Weeks 1–7	**Advanced MIDI in practice** • Advanced MIDI, e.g. how MIDI works by studying data bytes • Advanced effects parameters, e.g. reverb, compression, delay • Practical tasks relating to MIDI and advanced effects parameters • Specimen questions relating to microphones and acoustics
Weeks 8–14	**Studio interconnection, microphones and acoustics** • Studio technology, e.g. ADC, routing, monitors, impedance, leads and signals • Advanced microphone theory and techniques, e.g. moving coil, suspension cradle, phase relationships • Acoustics parameters, e.g. describing reverb tails, pre-delay, RT60 and resonant frequencies • Specimen questions relating to studio technology, routing and acoustics parameters
Weeks 15–20	**Audio editing and manipulating advanced parameters with automation** • Advanced pitch / rhythm correction, e.g. creative pitch correction / transient detection, groove templates • Identifying and understanding waveforms in the context of audio editing, e.g. discontinuous waveforms • Justifying production decisions, e.g. effect parameters used and their settings • Practical tasks on automation of effects parameters and audio editing
Weeks 21–26	**Focus on essay questions and evaluating production scenarios** • Essay question focus, e.g. evaluating studio / production scenarios • Students sit whole specimen paper from sample assessment materials and review using peer marking
Weeks 27–33	**Exam preparation, revision and specimen questions** • Exam preparation – command-word recap; suggested timings for each section/item in the question paper • Revision of all content covered • Specimen questions • Students sit final A level Component 4 exam

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